

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM USLO PEKING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1987

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SENV, CH

SUBJECT: CALL ON PEKING MRC VICE CHAIRMAN TING KUO-YU

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF WU TEH, WHO HAS NOT APPEARED RECENTLY AND WHO WE SUSPECT IS OUT OF PEKING, MR. BUSH MET FOR AN HOUR WITH PEKING MRC VICE CHAIRMAN TING KUO-YU. CONVERSATION WAS RELAXED AND CENTERED ON PROBLEMS OF ADMINISTERING PEKING MUNICIPALITY.

2. TING COMMENTED ON DIFFICULTIES OF CREATING AN ORDERLY TRAFFIC SYSTEM IN PEKING WITH THE THOUSANDS OF BICYCLES AND, IN MANY CASES, INADEQUATE ROADS. HE NOTED THAT PEKING WAS IN PROCESS OF DEVELOPING ITS MASS TRANSPORT SYSTEM AND WAS CONSTRUCTING A SUBWAY WHICH WOULD ROUGHLY FOLLOW THE LINE OF THE OLD CITY WALL. ON TOP OF THE SUBWAY PEKING PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD

,
AND FURTHER OUT THERE WILL BE ANOTHER CIRCULAR HIGHWAY WHICH CAN BE USED BY HEAVY TRUCKS AS A BY-PASS ROUTE. HE NOTED THAT MOST PEOPLE LIVE IN THE CITY BUT TRAVEL TO THE SUBURBS FOR EMPLOYMENT. TING SAID THAT FACTORY HOURS IN PEKING ARE GENERALLY STANDARD. HE EXPLAINED THAT IN MANY HOUSEHOLDS BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE AND SOMETIMES CHILDREN ALL WORK. THEY LIKE TO HAVE STANDARD HOURS SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE AS MUCH TIME AT HOME TOGETHER AS POSSIBLE.

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TRAVEL, THEREFORE, HAS PEAK PERIODS OF CONGESTION, WITH

GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSING AT 5:30 AND FACTORIES AT 6:00.

3. TURNING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, TING SAID AIR AND WATER POLLUTION WERE MATTERS OF GROWING CONCERN, AND SOMETHING IN WHICH PREMIER CHOU TOOK A PERSONAL INTEREST. HE SAID A MAJOR PROBLEM WAS CAUSED BY FACT THAT MOST PEKING RESIDENTS LIVE IN A SMALL SINGLE UNIT DWELLINGS AND COOKED OVER COAL STOVES. HE SAID THE PEKING GOVERNMENT HAD TRIED TO LIMIT AIR POLLUTION BY LOCATING MOST HEAVY INDUSTRY IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST SUBURBS SINCE PREVAILING WIND DURING A LARGE PART OF THE YEAR IS FROM THE NORTHWEST

MANY SMALL FACTORIES CONTINUE TO EXIST INSIDE THE CITY AND ARE A CAUSE OF POLLUTION, HE SAID, BUT THESE ARE GENERALLY BEING RE-LOCATED OUTSIDE THE CITY.

4. MR. BUSH NOTED THAT THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAD DONE CONSIDERABLE WORK ON QUESTION OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION AND SAID THAT U.S. WOULD BE HAPPY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES WITH CHINESE AUTHORITIES IF THEY WERE INTERESTED. TING SAID QUITE ENTHUSIASTICALLY THAT CHINESE WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE IN THIS FIELD.

5. TURNING TO MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION, MR. BUSH ASKED HOW THE LOCAL CITIZENS COULD BRING PROBLEMS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PEKING AUTHORITIES. TING SAID THE BASIC MEANS WAS THROUGH THE REVOLUTIONARY STREET COMMITTEES, BUT PEOPLE ALSO COULD COME DIRECTLY TO THE PEKING MRC. IF THEY WANT, HE SAID, THEY CAN WRITE DIRECTLY TO THE PREMIER OR THE CHAIRMAN. "IT IS THEIR RIGHT WHICH MUST

BE PROTECTED." IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PARTY, HE SAID, THERE ARE "RECEPTION COMMITTEES" WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING MAIL AND COMPLAINTS FROM THE CITIZENS. IN RESPONSE TO MR. BUSH'S FAVORABLE COMMENT ON THE LOW CRIME RATE IN CHINA, TING SAID, "THERE HAS BEEN SOME PROGRESS OVER THE OLD SOCIETY, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS." HE CONCLUDED THAT MAIN FOCUS IN CONTROLLING CRIME IS

ON EDUCATING THE YOUTH.

6. COMMENT: TING, A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, STRUCK US AS A POISED AND CONFIDENT POLITICIAN. WHILE NEVER STRAYING FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTY LINE, HE AVOIDED DOCTRINAIRE POSITIONS AND WAS FAIRLY FRANK ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF PEKING'S MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET AGAIN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DO SO.
BUSH

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